

My name is Barbara and I was born in the City of Worcester and have lived in the area ever since. I am now in my 70s.

The city is probably most known for the 1651 Battle of Worcester, during the English Civil War. This was the war’s very last battle and took place around the area of London Road, Fort Royal Park, Sidbury, and also around Powick Old Bridge. The Commandery in Sidbury was used as a hospital during that time.

Now, during the summer months, displays relating to the battle take part in and around The Commandery – with enactors dressed in full regalia as was worn in the time of the battle. The Commandery is a very interesting place and is well worth a visit if you are interested in the history of Worcester.

It is also very well known that King Charles II made his escape from Worcester during the battle via a house in New Street and hid in a tree near Ombersley.

We also have three lovely parks in Worcester: Fort Royal Park, Cripplegate Park and Gheluvelt Park. The park commemorates the Worcestershire Regiment's 2nd Battalion, which fought at the Battle of Gheluvelt in World War One.

Porcelain is yet another of Worcester’s enterprises. Worcester Royal porcelain was established in 1752 by Dr John Wall, producing fine china with clay brought up from Cornwall. This gave Worcester a world-wide name but unfortunately is now made abroad. But the name Royal Worcester Porcelain is still a famous name.

Around the 18th Century, the city became noted for its glove making. In fact, two streets were named after that industry. Glover Street and Needler Street which unfortunately no longer exist but was located around where City Walls Road is now. Also, a large hotel named Fownes Hotel was named after the glove manufacturers.

Another well-known product made in Worcester is Lea and Perrins sauce. Apparently, it originated in India. About 1835 local Lord Sandys, who was a governor in Bengal, had enjoyed a particular sauce there and brought back the recipe with him.

John Lea and William Perrins ran a chemist shop in Broad Street and were experimenting making various products. They were asked by Lord Sandys to make up his recipe. They produced it but when they tasted it they did not like it. They put it down in the cellar and there it stayed for about two years.

They then decided to give the cellar a spring clean. They were going to dispose of the sauce, but tried it first. They liked it and thought that as it had matured it was very good so they produced more.

In 1842 they sold 636 bottles. In 1845 this sauce was so successful they set up a factory in Bank Street and within 10 years they were selling 30,000 bottles per year. This factory is now situated in Midland Road, Worcester, and the recipe is still secret.

I hope you have enjoyed a little bit of history of our beautiful city and that it has informed you of some of the reasons we are known all over the world.